

Minutes
Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee
Opportunity Fund Public Hearing
South Lake Union Armory Building
April 25, 2005

Members Present: Maisha Barnett, Russ Brubaker, Doug Dunham, Don Harper, Terry Holme, Cheryl Klinker, Sharon Lee, Peter Lukevich, Adrian Moroles, Joyce Moty, Jackie Ramels, Keith Rickards,

Staff Present: Ken Bounds, Catherine Anstett, Bill Blair, Susan Golub, Donald Harris, Michael Shiosaki, Cathy Tuttle,

Committee Business: The minutes from the March 28th meeting were approved, as amended.

Annual Newsletter: The meeting began with Michael Shiosaki presenting Committee members with a copy of the Pro Parks Levy 2005 Annual Newsletter.

Opportunity Fund Public Hearing: The primary business of this meeting was a public hearing on the Opportunity Fund. Seventy-nine people spoke about projects that applied for funding from the Opportunity Fund.

Bill Leong -- Amy Yee Tennis Center: Mr. Leong, the Executive Director of U.S. Tennis cited the desperate need for court time in support of funding for the Amy Yee Tennis Center. He noted there always are waiting lists for lessons and programs. Approximately thirty people stood when Mr. Leong asked for a show of supporters of the Tennis Center.

Leslie Look – Amy Yee Tennis Center: Ms. Look, a member of the Tennis Advisory Council, provided information on Amy Yee, an award winning tennis player and teacher who died in 2000. She noted the very bad condition of the outdoor courts in expressing her support for funding for the Tennis Center.

Mike Vandemeer – Amy Yee Tennis Center: In expressing support for funding for the Tennis Center Mr. Vandemeer stated that the outdoor courts were built 28 years ago and had not ever been resurfaced, while resurfacing is recommended for courts every seven to eight years.

Janet Brock – Amy Yee Tennis Center: Ms. Brock noted the bad condition of the outdoor courts, including cracks and tilting fences in voicing her support for funding for the Tennis Center.

Bob Vaughan – Amy Yee Tennis Center: Mr. Vaughan, chair of the Tennis Center Advisory Board, stated that the Tennis Center provides opportunities for all citizens, serving 100,000 players each year. However, it cannot meet the demand and must use a lottery for classes. He noted that the original plans for the facility had more courts but was never completed.

Velva Maye – Haller Lake Park: Ms. Maye, a member of the Haller Lake Community Club, stated that she has lived in the neighborhood 52 years. She spoke in favor of developing the 125th St. public access and expressed the need to stabilize the eroding beach.

John Doty – Haller Lake: Mr. Doty, a 51 year resident of the Haller Lake neighborhood, cited the need for neighbors to have a place to visit, picnic and enjoy the view as he spoke in favor of funding for Haller Lake.

Daniel Mihalyo – 12th Avenue Urban Village: In expressing support for funding 12th Avenue Urban Village park, Mr. Mihalyo showed the Committee a map with eight preferred park sites, with the parking lot owned by King County as the favorite. The map also showed the new high density housing that was being developed in the neighborhood.

Jill Janow – 12th Avenue Urban Village: Ms. Janow, chair of the Pike Pine Neighborhood Council, spoke in favor of funding the 12th Avenue Urban Village park, stating that the goal was to bring the two communities together. She also cited the negative impact of the King County Detention Facility on the neighborhood.

Susan Minogue – 12th Avenue Urban Village: While speaking in favor of funding the 12th Avenue Urban Village project, Ms. Minogue described the Seattle Night Out event that occurred last summer and how it revealed many children living on her block. There is no place for these children to play – no library, community center or park.

Rick Barrett – Haller Lake: Mr. Barrett, a neighborhood resident for 59 years, spoke in favor of funding Haller Lake, noting that he would like to see the area become a public park. Help with police surveillance was also cited as a benefit of park development.

Jo Dawson – Haller Lake: Ms. Dawson, a member of the Haller Lake Community Club, cited her involvement in the area since 1963 when speaking in favor of funding for Haller Lake. She cited several planning documents from 1968, 1980 and the Vision 20/20 plan which all called for park development of the street ends at Haller Lake.

Sybil Knudson – Haller Lake: Ms. Knudson, a long time neighbor of Haller Lake, asked the Committee to make the park at Haller Lake a reality.

Warren Dawson – Haller Lake: Mr. Dawson spoke in favor of funding Haller Lake.

Doug Barnett – Powell Barnett: Mr. Barnett, the son of Powell Barnett, described his father's philosophy: "I am no better than my community," and outlined the deterioration that has occurred at Powell Barnett Park and the need for full funding to correct security problems and enhance the park for future users.

Sue Linnabary – Haller Lake: In speaking in favor of Haller Lake, Ms. Linnabary described the erosion that has occurred and the lack of available waterfront.

Carolyn Crockett – Haller Lake: Ms. Crockett, a member of the Haller Lake Community Club and Friends of Northacres Park stated the need for public access at Haller Lake to provide a place for people to get to the Lake to swim.

Virginia Warren – Haller Lake: Ms. Warren stated that she was not in favor of this project the last time it came before the Oversight Committee, but now sees the need to stop the beach erosion as a reason to support the project. She lives adjacent to the street end on the south side and has lost property to the erosion.

Garth Ferber – Pinehurst Pocket Park: In speaking in favor of Pinehurst, Mr. Ferber described the dense housing development that has occurred in the Lake City and Northgate urban villages. The park will serve the people of these neighborhoods and is a good investment.

Bob Santos – International District Community Center Expansion: After singing a few bars of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” Mr. Santos described his dream come true: the International District Community Center and the housing that is being developed in the ID despite two freeways and two sports stadiums. The use of the community center is booming and acquisition of the additional first floor space is needed.

John Barber – Powell Barnett: Mr. Barber, Chair of the Leschi Community Council’s Parks and Open Space Committee, spoke in favor of full funding for Powell Barnett. Mr. Barnett was the first president of the L.C.C in 1958 and did much to bring the community together. The improvements to Powell Barnett will help combat crime-related problems, much like redevelopment helped Flo Ware Park.

Paul Gustie – Fremont Peak Park: Mr. Gustie spoke in favor of the staff recommendation for Fremont Peak, described the great views from the park and stated a March pledge drive raised over \$4,000. When asked, approximately 15 people stood up in support of Fremont Peak.

Ruby Ford – Fremont Peak Park: Ruby, a student, expressed interest in getting involved in an art project for this park.

Karen Moe – Fremont Peak Park: Ms. Moe, of Friends of Fremont Peak, described the two year process the group has undertaken to develop the plan for the park, raise additional money and revise the budget to meet the staff recommendation. The group is ready to begin construction based on the reduced amount of the staff recommendation.

Jack Tompkinson – Fremont Peak Park: Mr. Tompkinson expressed support for the staff recommendation for Fremont Peak and stated that the 660 foot cliff at the site made the full recommended amount necessary to protect people from falling off the steep edge.

Steve Johnson – Powell Barnett: Mr. Johnson presented 30 letters in support of funding this park. The need to make the park safe and usable and the inability of the community to get wealthy donations were cited in favor of full funding.

Janice Camp – Maple Leaf Community Garden: In speaking in favor of funding for Maple Leaf, Ms. Camp noted the working class character of the neighborhood and the difficulty in raising additional funds for this project.

Barbara Maxwell – Maple Leaf Community Garden: Ms. Maxwell’s expression of support for Maple Leaf included the promise that the community would build a park that the Oversight Committee would be proud of.

Ira Moss – Amy Yee Tennis Center: Mr. Moss, coach of the Garfield High School tennis team noted the health benefits of tennis, a lifetime activity; and also stated that tennis players have no race, sex or size barriers – tennis can be played by anyone. Three Garfield High tennis players stood with Mr. Moss in support of the project.

Diane Morris – Powell Barnett: While speaking in favor of Powell Barnett, Ms. Morris stated it is a great park in need of help. Some of the plans for improving the park include replacing dilapidated play equipment, signs to honor Powell Barnett, a science area, new plantings and safe walkways.

Ryan Cassidy – Ercolini Park: Mr. Cassidy expressed the neighborhood's appreciation for the acquisition funding for this park and in speaking in favor of the staff recommendation said the neighborhood is excited to proceed with development.

Anne Carragher – Ercolini Park: In favor of Ercolini Park, Ms. Carragher described the dense character of the neighborhood.

Nina Hanson – Haller Lake: Ms. Hanson, the neighbor to the south side of the project, expressed concerns regarding trespassing on private property, traffic congestion, especially regarding fire and ambulance access, and safety because the lake is not visible from the street. She suggested looking at access from 128th street instead of 125th.

Maria Reyna – Cascade People's Center: In speaking in favor of CPC, Ms. Reyna described her involvement since 1999. Children participate in after school activities and there are great networking opportunities. When asked, approximately 30 people stood in favor of this project.

Scott Laetans – Cascade People's Center: Mr. Laetans is President of Eco Cascade, a non-profit corporation whose purpose is the renovation of the CPC. He stated that the building is in severe disrepair and needs improvements for safety, disability access and repair.

Antoinette Meier – Cascade People's Center: Ms. Meier is the Dept. of Neighborhoods Lake Union District Coordinator and works with the CPC. They have received two DON grants. CPC is an active organization in a priority neighborhood serving a diverse population, and the eco renovation exemplifies sustainable practices.

Dawn Johnson – Cascade People's Center: Speaking in favor of CPC, Ms. Johnson described how the organization supported her when she was in need in 2000.

Malaika Lafferty – Cascade People's Center: In speaking in favor of CPC, Ms. Lafferty noted that all programs at the Center are free and that the organization is run by volunteers.

Stephanie – Cascade People's Center: Stephanie has been involved with CPC for seven years, first as a program participant and now as a leader of the Helping Hands volunteer program. The building needs help – the roof is leaking and it is hard to have dance practice with a leaky roof.

Kay Knapton – Junction Plaza: In describing her vision for Junction Plaza, Ms. Knapton saw an active gathering place with hopscotch, theater performances, chess and checkers boards – a place of beauty and art. She also noted the development pressure in the neighborhood and the need for open space.

Kimball MacKay – Cascade People's Center: Mr. MacKay, a teacher at Cornish School, described the great partnership between the Eco Center and Cornish and gave support to the sustainability effort. He noted the importance the Center has in people's lives.

David Berger – Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint: While showing a panoramic photo of the view from this park, Mr. Berger described it as a strong match for all of the Opportunity Fund criteria: it is in a neighborhood revitalization area and an urban village, is open space needy and has leveraged a lot of money – the community raised over \$30,000 at a recent auction. He asked for support for the original request as the minimum required to build the viewpoint deck is \$395,000, 20% of the total budget.

Joann Natalia Aquino – International District Community Center: While speaking in favor of expansion of the International District C.C., Ms Aquino noted that this was a natural extension of the C.C., that there are a lot of children in the neighborhood who will benefit from the project.

Roxanne Tam – International District Community Center: Ms. Tam, a member of the I.D. C.C. Advisory Council, said the facility, open since August 2004, has served an average of 150 children per week and 600 adults each month. Extra space will provide a weight lifting and circuit training room.

Alexandra Pye – Junction Plaza: Ms. Pye, a West Seattle resident for 67 years, spoke in favor of Junction Plaza, noting that the project will create a needed town square and open space for the neighborhood.

Lloyd Douglas – Cascade People’s Center: Mr. Douglas voiced his support for the CPC.

Bill Zosel – 12th Avenue Village: Where is the park in Squire Park, questioned Mr. Zosel while speaking in favor of park acquisition for 12th Avenue. Buying property for a park in this neighborhood fits the priorities of the levy legislation, and while no site has been identified the community needs funding to enable it to pursue properties of interest. A first priority is a parking lot owned by King County.

Ronald Boddie – 12th Avenue Village: Mr. Boddie echoed the question: where is the park in Squire Park and noted that coordinating resources is important and that there is support in the community for the project.

Paul Barry – Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint: Speaking in favor of Mt. Baker Ridge, Mr. Barry noted that not many can enjoy the view now and that the new park will make a difference to the neighborhood.

Linda Lee – Mt. Baker Ridge Viewpoint: Speaking in favor of Mt. Baker Ridge, Ms. Lee expressed the desire to share the wonderful view from the park.

Justin VanderPol – I-5 Open Space: The community is trying to buy the remaining 2,200 square feet of property for this park – the property is on the market with the hope of selling for multi-family development. The property will provide a good connection for the park and the opportunity is now to purchase it.

Barbara Gross – Haller Lake: Speaking in favor of Haller Lake, Ms. Gross noted that while the staff recommendation does not provide sufficient money for the entire plan, it will help with erosion control and the neighborhood will work to raise money to complete the plan.

Chip Nevins – Ernst Park: Speaking in favor of Ernst Park acquisition, Mr. Nevins noted that it is important to complete the park – the addition was always anticipated as part of the park but there was never before a willing seller. We must take advantage of this opportunity or the property will develop. The park is a great gathering place for the community.

Isaac Cohen – Bailey Gatzert Elementary: Mr. Cohen, a supporter of Bailey Gatzert Elementary, noted the project will create an additional welcoming entry and paths to the school open space with the goal of making a gathering place for the community.

Sue McGann – Marra Farm: Ms. McGann described Marra Farm, a new unique four and a half acre city park that provided employment for 29 youth last year and 20,000 pounds of produce was grown at the farm.

Kim Madalinski – Marra Farm: Ms. Madalinski, a Lettuce Link Vista worker, cited the involvement of the children of South Park in the activities at Marra Farm and the connection between the farm and Concorde Elementary. She stated that it is important to fund the basic needs of the farm and the dreams.

Dick Marquardt – Haller Lake: Mr. Marquardt, a 50 year resident of Haller Park, former State Senator and Insurance Commissioner, spoke in favor of the improvements at the Lake and noted several concerns, including a question about permitting swimming, whether there will be a lifeguard, what hours there will be and if the project will include a restroom. He stated that the adjacent neighbors should be consulted.

Henry Mills – Haller Lake: Mr. Mills cited the need to fix the shoreline and stated the improvements at Haller Lake should be limited to one picnic table. There is no parking at the site and it cannot support a lot of people.

Yao Chow – Marra Farm: Speaking in support of Marra Farm, Mr. Chow noted that the farm provides food to the local senior center and food bank and the p-patch supports low income people.

Jason Medeiros – Brighton Science Park: Jason Medeiros: Mr. Medeiros, a science teacher at Aki Kurose Middle School, spoke in support of the staff recommendation for Brighton. Mr. Meideros noted that the project will be a cornerstone of the community and that support for the project is growing. The project increases the recreation value of the park and will be tied to teaching at the middle school.

Jeanne Muir – Cascade People's Center: Ms. Muir is working with a developer of 430 new housing units for the Cascade neighborhood and noted that the CPC is the heart of the neighborhood.

Davidya Kasperzyk – Ballard Pocket Park: Speaking in support of the staff recommendation, Mr. Kasperzyk noted that the neighborhood is in transition and that over 120 people have volunteered to help with the project.

Candi Wilvang – Cascade People's Center: Ms. Wilvang provided some history of the CPC, noting that the building was once used for Park Dept. offices. CPC helped her when she was homeless and is a great center offering free programs in a densely growing neighborhood.

Willie Rowley – Marra Farm: Mr. Rowley worked at Marra Farm when he was young and noted the improvements that it needs, including a play area, composting toilet and welcoming signs that invite people to enjoy this public land.

John Gillespie – Ernst Park Addition: The opportunity is now to get this open space – its loss would create a bad impact on the park.

Truman Buffett – Powell Barnett: Mr. Barnett spoke in favor of funding improvements to Powell Barnett Park.

Claudia Stell – Powell Barnett Park: In speaking in favor of full funding for Powell Barnett, Ms. Stell cited the wonderful transformation that occurred at Flo Ware when it was redeveloped and that the Coyote School helped with the entry at that park and wanted to participate in the improvements at Powell Barnett as well.

Karina Luboff – Marra Farm: Ms. Luboff, who works for Seattle Youth Garden, cited the importance of the farm's produce to the community. She noted there are limited resources and that the farm needs help with infrastructure improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of the public testimony.

Approved by Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee at its meeting on May 23, 2005.